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ROLE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN THE CONTEXT OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY, DISARMAMENT AND OTHER RELATED FIELDS

The transfer of high technology with military applications

Working paper submitted by Brazil and Canada

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 45/61 of 4 December 1990, 46/38 D of 6 December 1991, and 47/44 of 9 December 1992,

Recalling that Member States were invited to widen multilateral dialogue bearing in mind the proposal for seeking universally acceptable international norms and guidelines that would regulate international transfers of high technology with military applications,

Recognizing that norms or guidelines for the transfer of high technology with military applications should take into account legitimate requirements for the maintenance of international peace and security, while ensuring that they do not deny access to high technology products, services and know-how for peaceful purposes,

The Disarmament Commission agrees on the following guidelines and recommendations regarding the transfer of high technology with military applications:

1. Science and technology per se are deemed to be neutral and their application for peaceful purposes should be promoted. International transfers of high-technology products, services and know-how for peaceful purposes are essential for the economic and social welfare of all nations.

2. The application of science and technology for legitimate defence purposes in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations is a right of all States. Measures taken by Member States in exercising this right must meet the requirements of international law.

3. Multilateral dialogue is required to promote international cooperation in the transfer for peaceful purposes of high technology with military applications. Such dialogue should aim at strengthening confidence among States, promoting their social and economic development and contributing to broadly acceptable international arrangements in this field.

4. The application of science and technology relevant to conventional weapons should not lead to quantitative or qualitative arms build-ups which threaten international peace and security.

5. Commitment to, and fulfilment of, comprehensive and balanced international non-proliferation norms are essential to the maintenance of international peace and security and provide the basis for the promotion of international cooperation in the transfer of high technology potentially relevant to weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery.

6. Bearing in mind the legitimate security needs of States, every effort should be made to devote scientific and technological resources to economic and social development and the welfare of the international community rather than to military purposes.

7. The application of science and technology for disarmament purposes should be promoted, inter alia, in the fields of weapons disposal, military conversion and the negotiation and implementation of disarmament and arms control agreements.

8. International cooperation in the application of science and technology for disarmament purposes should be strengthened and, in this regard, access to disarmament-related technologies should be facilitated.

9. International non-proliferation arrangements and agreements are strengthened by their widespread acceptability. It is therefore desirable to secure the adherence of the greatest possible number of States both on the sides of supply and of demand to such arrangements and agreements.

10. The effectiveness of such international arrangements is enhanced by clearly defined rights and obligations, operational transparency, adequate verification and the commitment on the part of both suppliers and recipients to cooperate to the maximum extent possible in order to ensure that transfers for exclusively peaceful purposes will not be diverted to non-peaceful uses.